

Message Text

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MILITARY ADDRESSEES ALSO FOR POLADS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MASS, NATO, FR, US
SUBJ: US-NATO FRENCH ARMAMENTS COOPERATION

1. BEGIN SUMMARY. DURING SEPTEMBER 15-16 VISIT OF
DR. PERRY, DDR&E, FRENCH MOD OFFICIALS REAFFIRMED
IN SEVERAL CORDIAL MEETINGS, THEIR SUPPORT FOR TWO-WAY
STREET IN ARMAMENTS COOPERATION TO ACHIEVE GREATER
INTEROPERABILITY IN THE ALLIANCE. MOD BOURGES
EXPRESSED THE CONVICTION THAT COOPERATION WITHIN THE
ALLIANCE WAS VITAL, FURNISHED MINOR CHANGES TO US-
FRENCH DRAFT MOU ON ARMAMENTS COOPERATION, AND SUG-
GESTED EARLY SIGNATURE OF THE AGREEMENT. DR. PERRY
PROPOSED, AND BOURGES AGREED TO STUDY, POSSIBLE USE
OF AGREED FAMILIES OF NATO STANDARDIZED MUNITIONS
DRAWING ON THE BEST DEVELOPMENT WORK OF ALL ALLIES.
FRENCH REPS ALSO AGREED TO CONSIDER PROVIDING A CON-
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SULTANT TO ASSIST IN DEVELOPMENT OF AN ALLIANCE PER-
IODIC ARMAMENTS PLANNING SYSTEM. ADDITIONAL SPECIFIC
COOPERATION EFFORTS WERE DISCUSSED. FRENCH OFFICIALS
WERE NON-COMMITTAL ON AWACS. END SUMMARY.

2. DR. PERRY (DDR&E), MR. BASIL (ASST. DDR&E), AND
M/GEN. BOWMAN (ISA) PARTICIPATED IN A SERIES OF MEET-

INGS WITH MOD AND INDUSTRIAL LEADERS, INCLUDING MOD BOURGES AND ARMAMENTS DIRECTOR MARTRE ON SEPT 15-16.

3. MOD BOURGES ASSERTED THE VITAL NATURE OF PERRY'S ASSIGNMENT AND INDICATED STRONG SUPPORT FOR ALLIANCE MILITARY INTEROPERABILITY, AS WELL AS ARMAMENTS COOPERATION AND CO-PRODUCTION, EMPHASIZING THAT THIS WOULD BE IN THE CONTEXT OF PRESERVING INDEPENDENT FRENCH POLICY MOVING TOWARD A CLOSER EUROPEAN COMMUNITY, AND MAINTAINING FRENCH AND EUROPEAN R&D AND MANUFACTURING CAPABILITY. HE SAID THAT UNDER PRESIDENT GISCARD FRANCE HAS STRENGTHENED ITS DEFENSE PROGRAMS AND THE FRG WAS DOING LIKEWISE. IN FACT, THE SOVIETS HAVE CHARGED FRANCE WITH JEOPARDIZING SOCIAL PROGRESS IN FAVOR OF MILITARY STRENGTH. IN THIS CONNECTION, BOURGES COMMENTED THAT IN DEMOCRATIC COUNTRIES PUBLIC OPINION TENDED TO BE TOO GENEROUS TOWARD THE SOVIETS.

4. BOURGES CITED THE NEED TO INCREASE COOPERATION IN THREE KEY AREAS: EQUILIBRIUM OF EXCHANGE ON THE TWO-WAY STREET, PURSUIT OF ARMAMENTS INTEROPERABILITY/STANDARDIZATION, AND TECHNICAL COOPERATION. WITH RESPECT TO THE TWO-WAY STREET, HE PROVIDED MINOR WORDING CHANGES TO THE DRAFT US-FRANCE MOU ON ARMAMENTS COOPERATION ALREADY UNDER NEGOTIATION AND CONFIDENTIAL

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EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT IT COULD BE SIGNED BY MODS AT AN EARLY DATE. HE SAID THAT EVENTUALLY THERE SHOULD BE SIMILAR AGREEMENTS BETWEEN THE US AND EACH OF THE EUROPEAN ALLIES.

5. DR. PERRY STATED THAT THE US ALSO DESIRED AN EARLY SIGNING OF THE MOU (FRENCH AGREED TO FURTHER CONSIDER QUESTION OF CLASSIFICATION AND METHOD OF INFORMING ALLIES) AND URGED EARLY MEETING TO WORK OUT DETAILED AGREEMENTS ON METHODS OF IMPLEMENTING THE MOU. HE SAID THAT SOVIET MILITARY GROWTH WAS THE CENTRAL PROBLEM FOR THE ALLIANCE WHICH MUST RESPOND BY USING ITS INDUSTRIAL AND TECHNOLOGICAL LEAD RATHER THAN TRYING TO MATCH THE SOVIETS WEAPON-FOR-WEAPON. THE ALLIANCE WOULD NEED CLOSE WORKING RELATIONSHIPS, COUNTRY-TO-COUNTRY AND COMPANY-TO-COMPANY, AND WOULD HAVE TO AGREE ON PROPER DIVISION OF R&D AND SUITABLE CO-PRODUCTION. HE MENTIONED THAT THE US ALREADY HAD COOPERATIVE MOUS WITH THE UK AND CANADA AND WAS NEGOTIATING SIMILAR AGREEMENTS WITH THE FRG, NORWAY, AND ITALY, AS WELL AS FRANCE.

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6. AS A CONTRIBUTION TO THE TWO-WAY STREET, BOURGES SUGGESTED THAT THE US ADOPT THE ALPHA JET (FRENCH-GERMAN) AS ITS NEW TRAINER AIRCRAFT. PERRY SAID THAT THE US WOULD SERIOUSLY CONSIDER ALPHA JET, BUT THAT TRAINER DECISIONS WOULD NOT BE MADE FOR SOME TIME. INSTEAD, FOR EARLY PROGRESS, HE SUGGESTED THAT ALLIANCE AGREEMENTS IN PRINCIPLE ON FAMILIES OF MUNITIONS COULD MAKE A MAJOR IMPACT ON THE TWO-WAY STREET. HE INDICATED THAT INITIATION OF THINKING ON SUCH FAMILIES OF MUNITIONS WAS A KEY OBJECTIVE OF HIS CURRENT TRIP AND THAT THE FRENCH ATLAS II LASER SYSTEM COULD BE AN IMPORTANT MEMBER OF THE TACTICAL AIR MUNITIONS FAMILY.(FRENCH REPS ASKED ABOUT POSSIBLE US BLOCKING OF ATLAS II LICENSE AGREEMENTS BETWEEN FRANCE AND US INDUSTRY AND WERE TOLD THAT A SERIOUS EFFORT WAS UNDER WAY TO RESTORE THOSE AGREEMENTS.) BOURGES
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AGREED THAT THE FAMILY APPROACH TO ALLIANCE WEAPONS COULD BE USEFUL AND REEMPHASIZED THE IMPORTANCE OF INTEROPERABILITY IN ALL MUNITIONS AREAS. CO-PRODUCTION COULD ALSO BE USEFUL, BUT INTEROPERABILITY WAS MORE IMPORTANT THAN STANDARDIZATION. GEN. MARTRE CALLED FOR AGREEMENT ON A STANDARD MEANS OF ATTACHING MISSILES TO AIRCRAFT.

7. ALLIANCE PERIODIC PLANNING SYSTEM (PAPS):

DR. PERRY ASKED MARTRE IF FRENCH HAD ANY FURTHER THOUGHTS ON PARTICIPATION IN NATO LONG-TERM PROGRAM TASK FORCES AND EMPHASIZED IMPORTANCE OF FASTER PROGRESS IN TASK FORCE 8 AND PAPS. MARTRE SUGGESTED THAT A REGULAR PROCEDURE BE WORKED OUT TO KEEP FRANCE INFORMED ON THE WORK OF EACH OF THE TASK FORCES AND AGREED TO CONSIDER PROVIDING A FRENCH CONSULTANT TO ASSIST IN THE PAPS WORK.

8. JTDS: IN A SEPARATE MEETING, DR. PERRY STATED THAT FRANCE HAD PROVIDED A GOOD DRAFT MOU ON JTDS COOPERATION, AND THAT THE US WOULD SEND SOME SUGGESTED CHANGES BY EARLY OCTOBER. IT WAS AGREED THAT THE MOU WOULD BE AMENDED TO ESTABLISH A WORKING GROUP ON JTDS INTEROPERABILITY.

9. TACTICAL COMMUNICATIONS: MARTRE EMPHASIZED THE DIFFICULTY OF MAKING CHANGES IN THE RITA SYSTEM, BUT SUGGESTED THAT A STUDY TEAM INVOLVING BOTH GOVERNMENTS AND INDUSTRY MIGHT TELL US MORE ABOUT HOW TO ACHIEVE INTEROPERABILITY BETWEEN RITA AND TRITAC.

10. MOD FLIR: MARTRE STATED THAT A FRENCH TEAM WOULD BE GOING TO THE US SOON TO DISCUSS MOD FLIR COOPERATION.
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TION. MARTRE WAS CONCERNED THAT DIFFERING FLIR APPROACHES WOULD NOT PERMIT COMMON MODULES. PERRY AGREED TO HAVE ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS CONCERNING TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER AND SALES AUTHORIZATIONS WHICH FRENCH VIEWED AS CRITICAL TO THEIR DECISION.

11. 105 MM 774 TANK AMMUNITION: MARTRE INDICATED THAT FRENCH WOULD LIKE TO PARTICIPATE IN DISCUSSIONS WHICH THEY UNDERSTOOD WERE UNDER WAY BETWEEN THE US AND THE UK. PERRY AGREED TO BEGIN DISCUSSIONS WITH FRENCH ON THIS MUNITION AND STATED US DESIRE TO FACILITATE WIDESPREAD USE IN NATO.

12. AWACS: FRENCH INDICATED THAT IN THE CURRENT POLITICAL SITUATION PARTICIPATION IN NATO AWACS WOULD BE VERY DIFFICULT. FRANCE WAS STILL INTERESTED IN AWACS AND IN USE OF GENERAL ELECTRIC-SNECMA CFM 56 ENGINE ON BOTH AWACS AND US C-L35 TANKER FLEET, BUT SOME BREAKTHROUGH IN US PURCHASES FROM FRANCE WOULD BE NEEDED BEFORE FRANCE COULD PURCHASE AWACS.
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